GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:112
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2002
REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES OF ARMED FORCES
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are statutory and non-statutory channels for redressal of grievances of the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of armed forces personnel approaching the courts are on the increase year after year;

(d) if so, whether the existing channels are not sufficient for redressal of their grievances;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up more tribunals to provide alternative remedy to the armed forces personnel; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these tribunals are likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 112 FOR 7.3.2002.

1. Provisions exist under the relevant sections of the Army Act, 1950, Navy Act 1957 and Air Force Act 1950 for redressal of grievances of the Armed Forces personnel. All such statutory complaints are made through proper channels and the intermediate superior authority in chain, offers detailed para-wise comments on the complaints. Where the redress prayed for is not given, the intermediate authority forwards the complaint to the authority to whom the complaint is addressed, for final disposal. Under non-statutory channels, there are provisions for submitting complaints against specific military wrongs in addition to statutory complaints.

2. In the Army and the Air Force the trend of approaching the courts by individuals seems to be on the increase. In the Navy, however, no clear cut trend is visible currently.

3. In the Armed Forces the channels of redressal of grievances are considered by and large adequate.

4. A proposal to establish an Armed Forces Tribunal to deal with the service matters and appeals arising out of the verdicts of the court martial concerning the three services is under active consideration of the Government and the modalities and other details are being worked out.